

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for providing information to a user at a resort, comprising:

a housing configured for being at least one of held and worn by the user;

a power source for providing power to the apparatus;

receiver circuitry situated in the housing, the receiver circuitry including at least one of a first circuit arrangement configured to receive resort-specific information non-wirelessly and a second circuit arrangement configured to receive the resort-specific information wirelessly, the first circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information from at least one information source located within the resort, the second circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information automatically and periodically;

a memory unit situated in the housing and configured to store the resort-specific information; and

a processing arrangement, the processing arrangement including a communication unit configured to communicate at least a portion of the resort-specific information to the user.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit of the processing arrangement includes at least one of a visual interface arrangement and an audible interface arrangement, the visual interface arrangement being configured to visually communicate at least the portion of the resort-specific information to the user and the audible interface arrangement being configured to audibly communicate at least the portion of the resort-specific information to the user.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the visual interface arrangement is further configured to visually display at least a digital map of the resort.

4. An apparatus for providing information to a user at a ski resort, comprising:

a housing configured for being at least one of held and worn by the user;

a power source for providing power to the apparatus;

receiver circuitry situated in the housing, the receiver circuitry including at least one of a first circuit arrangement configured to receive resort-specific information non-wirelessly and a second circuit arrangement configured to receive the resort-specific information wirelessly, the first circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information from at least one information source located within the resort, the second circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information automatically and periodically, the resort-specific information including at least one of information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski trails, information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski lifts, information relating to a snow condition of at least one of the plurality of ski trails, and information relating to a skier congestion of at least one of the plurality of ski lifts;

a memory unit situated in the housing and configured to store the resort-specific information; and

a processing arrangement, the processing arrangement including a communication unit configured to communicate at least a portion of the resort-specific information to the user.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the communication unit of the processing arrangement includes at

least one of a visual interface arrangement and an audible interface arrangement, the visual interface arrangement being configured to visually communicate at least the portion of the resort-specific information to the user and the audible interface arrangement being configured to audibly communicate at least the portion of the resort-specific information to the user.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the visual interface arrangement is further configured to visually display at least a digital map of the ski resort.

7. An apparatus for providing information to a user at a resort, comprising:

a housing configured for being at least one of held and worn by the user;

a power source for providing power to the apparatus;

receiver circuitry situated in the housing, the receiver circuitry including at least one of a first circuit arrangement configured to receive resort-specific information non-wirelessly and a second circuit arrangement configured to receive the resort-specific information wirelessly, the first circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information from at least one information source located within the resort, the second circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information automatically and periodically;

a memory unit situated in the housing and configured to store the resort-specific information;

location determination circuitry including GPS circuitry configured to receive signals from GPS satellites, wherein the GPS circuitry determines a geographical position of the apparatus as a function of the signals; and

a processing arrangement, the processing arrangement including a communication unit configured to communicate at

least a portion of the resort-specific information to the user.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the communication unit of the processing arrangement includes a visual interface arrangement configured to visually display to the user at least one of a digital map of the resort, the geographical position of the apparatus, and the portion of the resort-specific information.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the portion of the resort-specific information includes at least one of information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski trails, information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski lifts, information relating to a snow condition of at least one of the plurality of ski trails, and information relating to a skier congestion of at least one of the plurality of ski lifts.

10. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
an alarm arrangement configured to alarm the user if the geographical position of the apparatus coincides with a geographical position of at least one location within the resort.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:
a user input arrangement configured to receive user inputted information from the user, the user inputted information including at least a skill level of the user, wherein the alarm arrangement alarms the user if the geographical position of the apparatus coincides with a geographical position of at least a portion of one of a plurality of ski trails having an assigned skill level that exceeds the skill level of the user.

12. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
a user input arrangement configured to receive user inputted information from the user, the user inputted information including at least one destination point located within the resort, wherein the processing arrangement is further configured to communicate a path of travel to the user, a beginning of the path of travel coinciding with the geographic position of the apparatus and an end of the path of travel coinciding with the at least one destination point, the communication unit of the processing arrangement communicating the path of travel to the user at least one of audibly and visually.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the user inputted information includes a skill level of the user, the path of travel being determined at least in accordance with the skill level of the user.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the path of travel is determined at least in accordance with the resort-specific information.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the path of travel is determined in accordance with at least one of information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski trails, information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski lifts, information relating to a snow condition of at least one of the plurality of ski trails, and information relating to a skier congestion of at least one of the plurality of ski lifts.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the path of travel traverses at least one of a portion of at least one of the plurality of ski trails and a course of at least one of the plurality of ski lifts.

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:
an alarm arrangement, the user inputted information including a skill level of the user, the alarm arrangement being configured to alarm the user if the geographical position of the apparatus coincides with a geographical position of at least a portion of one of the plurality of ski trails and a skill level assigned to the one of the plurality of ski trails exceeds the skill level of the user.

18. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the communication unit of the processing arrangement includes a visual interface arrangement configured to visually display at least one of a digital map of the resort, the geographical position of the apparatus, and the portion of the resort-specific information.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the portion of the resort-specific information includes at least one of information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski trails, information relating to at least one of a plurality of ski lifts, information relating to a snow condition of at least one of the plurality of ski trails, and information relating to a skier congestion of at least one of the plurality of ski lifts.

20. An apparatus for providing information to a user at a resort, comprising:

a housing configured for being at least one of held and worn by the user;

a power source for providing power to the apparatus;

receiver circuitry situated in the housing, the receiver circuitry including at least one of a first circuit arrangement configured to receive resort-specific information non-wirelessly and a second circuit arrangement configured to receive the resort-specific information wirelessly, the first

circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information from at least one information source located within the resort, the second circuit arrangement being further configured to receive the resort-specific information automatically and periodically;

a memory unit situated in the housing and configured to store the resort-specific information;

location determination circuitry including GPS circuitry configured to receive signals from GPS satellites, wherein the GPS circuitry determines a geographical position of the apparatus as a function of the signals;

a processing arrangement, the processing arrangement including a communication unit configured to communicate at least a portion of the resort-specific information to the user; and

a transmitting arrangement configured to wirelessly transmit at least the geographical position of the apparatus.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a position receiving arrangement configured to wirelessly receive at least one transmitted geographical position, the communication unit of the processing arrangement communicating the at least one transmitted geographical position to the user.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the communication unit of the processing arrangement communicates the at least one transmitted geographical position to the user only if a transmitted group tag assigned to the at least one transmitted geographical position matches a group tag assigned to the apparatus.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

a user input arrangement configured to receive user inputted information from the user, the user inputted

information including at least group identifier information, wherein the group tag is assigned to the apparatus in accordance with the group identifier information, the communication unit of the processing arrangement communicating the at least one transmitted geographical position to the user at least one of visually and audibly.